

Application No. 09/767,154
Applicants: Naoyuki TAKAHASHI *et al.*

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is respectfully solicited. Applicants note with gratitude the Examiner's indication that claims 21-22 are allowable and that Claims 10 and 16, if written in independent form, would be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 10 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 13 and 20, previously dependent on Claims 1 and 14, have been amended to depend from Claims 10 and 16, respectively, and are thus believed to also be allowable.

Claims 3-7, directed to a non-elected invention, were canceled without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications. Claims 23-28 have also been canceled.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should minor changes be required, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned to attempt to expedite patent issuance.

Date: November 18 2003 Marina V. Schneller

Respectfully submitted,

Marina V. Schneller
(Registration No. 26,032)
VENABLE, LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 962-4800
Telefax : (202) 962-8300

MVS/SJB
#481093